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BOOK NOTICE

LEAKE, DOROTHY VANDYKE, JOHN BENJAMIN LEAKE, and MARCELOTTE LEAKE ROEDER. 1993. **Desert and Mountain Plants of the Southwest.** (ISBN 0-8061-2489-x, pbk). University of Oklahoma Press, P.O. B. 787, Norman, OK 73070-0787. \$18.95. 239 pp.

A problem with plant identification guides such as this one lies not in what is *included* but what is *excluded*. By implication, the book includes desert and mountain plants from western Texas to southern California and north through the southern half of Nevada, Utah, and western Colorado (map on page 2), a large order. The “over 250 species” represented in the book are thus but a fraction of the total desert/mountain flora of this region. True, the geographical coverage shrinks markedly on page vii, where it is said to be especially “the part of the Sonoran Desert located in Arizona.” The book’s title is obviously misleading. The illustrations are line drawings, some of which show well the features of the plants pictured. Placement of the illustrations is erratic—some on pages facing the text, some on pages before or after the text (text page-numbers are not given at the illustrations). A “Guide to plant families,” which attempts to lead the user to the appropriate “group” including the plant in hand, is not highly successful. Following an appendix—“Plant characteristics illustrated,” which novices should find useful—are a glossary, bibliography, and index. The book could have used the services of a botanically astute and critical editor.—*John W. Thieret.*